

Atty Dkt. No.: LIFE-040
USPN: 09/988,494AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 and 7 are amended, claims 11-32 are cancelled, and claims 33-42 are newly added, as shown below. A complete listing of the claims, including their current status, is provided below.

1. (Currently amended) A reagent composition comprising:
a tetrazolium dye;
a phenazine electron transfer agent; and
~~an effective amount of a Group IIIA compound and/or a flavin stabilizing agent~~ in an amount effective to stabilize said composition.
2. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said flavin stabilizing agent is flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD).
3. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 1 ~~34~~, wherein said Group IIIA stabilizing agent is a borate or boric acid.
4. (original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said reagent composition comprises an analyte oxidizing signal producing system.
5. (original) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte oxidase.
6. (original) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte dehydrogenase.
7. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said phenazine compound-agent is phenazine ethosulfate (PES).

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8. (original) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system further comprises an enzyme cofactor.

9. (original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a fluid composition.

10. (original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a dry composition.

11-32 (Cancelled)

33. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said flavin agent and said tetrazolium dye are present at a molar ratio of about 0.02 to about 17.

34. (new) A reagent composition comprising:

a tetrazolium dye;

a phenazine electron transfer agent; and

a Group IIIA compound in an amount effective to stabilize said composition;

wherein said Group IIIA compound and said tetrazolium dye are present at a molar ratio of about 50 to about 800.

35. (new) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said reagent composition comprises an analyte oxidizing signal producing system.

36. (new) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte oxidase.

37. (new) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte dehydrogenase.

38. (new) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said phenazine agent is PES.

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39. (new) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system further comprises an enzyme cofactor.

40. (new) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a fluid composition.

41. (new) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a dry composition.

42. (New) A reagent composition comprising:
a tetrazolium dye;
a phenazine electron transfer agent; and
a Group IIIA compound and a flavin stabilizing agent.

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